

FREEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Outlet Sampling and Plumbing Assessment Recommendations

4001 Ogema Avenue, Flint, MI 48507



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On Friday, October 23, 2015, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (DLARA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) conducted an assessment of Freeman Elementary School's plumbing system to gain a comprehensive understanding of how water moves through the building and what types of plumbing materials are used. The assessment identified the following potential sources of lead leaching into drinking water:

- Lead solder joints on copper piping
- Brass valves and brass fittings
- Brass components in fixtures
- Galvanized piping

The assessment also identified 31 faucets or fountains that provide water for drinking, cooking, and/or food preparation. The team developed a sequence for sampling the 31 faucets/fountains based on how the water travels through the building.

On Saturday, October 24, 2015, the DEQ and the DLARA completed sampling of the 31 faucets/fountains, in the order determined by the plumbing assessment from the previous day, following a stagnation period of 12 hours. At each of the 31 faucets/fountains identified, staff collected four samples. Two initial, 125-milliliter samples (P1 and P2) were collected immediately after turning on the tap. The water was then flushed for 30 seconds, and a third 125-milliliter sample (F1) was collected. Finally, the water was flushed for another two minutes, and the fourth 125-milliliter sample (F2) was collected. These samples were used to determine the impact of any lead sources in and around each specific faucet/fountain and its connecting plumbing.

On Saturday, October 31, 2015, the DEQ completed consecutive sampling at three of the 31 faucets/fountains following a stagnation period of 12 hours. This sampling was used to determine the impact of any lead sources located deep in the supply plumbing. The three sites included one site near the building service line, one site near the plumbing mid-point, and one site at the far end of the plumbing system. At each of these three sites, staff collected 10, 1-liter samples. The 10 samples were collected immediately after turning on the tap, and consecutively, without any flushing time in between.

WATER SERVICE INFORMATION

A four-inch diameter cast iron water service line enters the school in the boiler room on the west wall. Piping in the boiler room immediately transitions into galvanized metal piping for cold water lines. Two separate galvanized cold water supply lines exit the boiler room. One in the northeast corner appears to serve the gym, auditorium, and proposed pre-K facilities on the north end of the school. The other exits the boiler room in the southwest corner and appears to serve the remainder of the school to the south, including the library. This line was also found to have grounding connections attached to the piping. Hot water is distributed in continuous loops that feed from and return to a central water heater in the boiler room. Hot water piping material, where exposed, was copper piping with 50/50 lead solder joints. Brass valves were seen throughout the building.

Outlets With Lead Levels Greater Than 15 Parts per Billion

The DEQ recommends school facilities take action if samples from any drinking water outlets show lead levels greater than 15 parts per billion. Based on the sampling conducted at 31 faucets/fountains on October 24, 2015, the following nine drinking water outlets had lead water level results greater than 15 parts per billion. Each of these nine outlets is listed below with its sample results, including a description of the potential source(s) of lead, and recommended actions for the school to take.

Outlet: Bubbler Drinking Fountain, Left (DW001)

Location: Hallway outside Janitorial Room

Results: P1=40 parts per billion, P2=6 parts per billion
F1=4 parts per billion, F2=1 part per billion

These results suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the bubbler itself. This bubbler fixture is believed to have a brass valve. The connection underneath the sink also appears to have some brass components, including the valve at the wall.

Replacement of this bubbler tap and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location. If replacement is not currently feasible, sample results indicate that flushing this tap for 3 minutes following periods of stagnation is likely to reduce lead concentrations and lead exposure.



Outlet: Sink Faucet (CF029)

Location: DHHS Office, west wall

Results: P1=17 parts per billion, P2=12 parts per billion
F1=2 parts per billion, F2=non-detect

These results suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the faucet and its connecting plumbing. The faucet is a Delta 400. This model faucet valve has brass components. This style faucet also has a mixing valve that may allow mixing of hot and cold water. Connecting plumbing in the cabinet under the sink may also contain brass components.



This faucet also has an aerator at the outlet. The aerator should be removed, inspected for particulate accumulations, scrubbed clean, and reinstalled. If particulates are found, the aerator should be periodically checked and cleaned.

Replacement of this faucet and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location. If replacement is not currently feasible, sample results indicate that flushing this tap for 3 minutes following periods of stagnation is likely to reduce lead concentrations and lead exposure.

Outlet: Integrated faucet and bubbler fountain (CF006)

Location: Classroom 2, south wall

Results: P1=16 parts per billion, P2=3 parts per billion

F1=1 part per billion, F2=1 part per billion

These results were collected from the faucet portion of the fixture and suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the fixture itself. The make and model of this fixture is unknown, but appears to be made of chrome plated brass and may be connected on the underside of the sink using a brass nipple.



Replacement of this fixture and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location. If replacement is not currently feasible, sample results indicate that flushing this tap for 3 minutes following periods of stagnation is likely to reduce lead concentrations and lead exposure.

Outlet: Integrated faucet and bubbler fountain (CF014)

Location: Classroom 10, north wall

Results: P1=27 parts per billion, P2=7 parts per billion

F1=4 parts per billion, F2=3 parts per billion

These results were collected from the faucet portion of the fixture and suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the fixture itself and its connecting plumbing. The make and model of this fixture is unknown, but appears to be made of chrome plated brass and may be connected on the underside of the sink using a brass nipple. Connecting plumbing in the cabinet under the sink may also contain brass components.



Replacement of this fixture and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location. If replacement is not currently feasible, sample results indicate that flushing this tap for 3 minutes following periods of stagnation is likely to reduce lead concentrations and lead exposure.

Outlet: Sink Faucet (CF013)

Location: Classroom 10, north wall

Results: P1=9 parts per billion, P2=18 parts per billion

F1=3 parts per billion, F2=3 parts per billion

These results suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the connecting plumbing with some contribution from the faucet itself. The faucet appears to be a Delta 500 series. This model faucet may have some brass components. This style faucet also has a mixing valve that may allow mixing of hot and cold water. Connecting plumbing in the cabinet under the sink should be checked for brass components, including brass valves.



This faucet also has an aerator at the outlet. The aerator should be removed, inspected for particulate accumulations, scrubbed clean, and reinstalled. If particulates are found, the aerator should be periodically checked and cleaned.

Replacement of this faucet and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location. If replacement is not currently feasible, sample results indicate that flushing this tap for 3 minutes following periods of stagnation is likely to reduce lead concentrations and lead exposure.

Outlet: Sink Faucet (CF015)

Location: Classroom 11, northeast corner

Results: P1=102 parts per billion, P2=326 parts per billion

F1=14 parts per billion, F2=11 parts per billion

These results suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the connecting plumbing and from the faucet itself. The faucet is an older design that uses a brass tube approximately 8 inches in length between the hot and cold water valves and connects to the outlet under the sink. This brass tube may be the primary source of lead, explaining the higher second (P2) sample result. The faucet and valves may also contain brass components. Connecting plumbing in the cabinet under the sink should be checked for additional brass components, including brass valves.



This faucet also has an aerator at the outlet. The aerator should be removed, inspected for particulate accumulations, scrubbed clean, and reinstalled. If particulates are found, the aerator should be periodically checked and cleaned.

Replacement of this faucet and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location and needs to be completed. If replacement is not currently feasible, **DO NOT USE THIS FAUCET FOR DRINKING OR COOKING.**

Outlet: Integrated faucet and bubbler fountain (CF024)

Location: Classroom 19, east wall

Results: P1=23 parts per billion, P2=3 parts per billion

F1=4 part per billion, F2=3 parts per billion

These results were collected from the faucet portion of the fixture and suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the fixture itself. The make and model of this fixture is unknown, but appears to be made of chrome plated brass and may be connected on the underside of the sink using a brass nipple.



Replacement of this fixture and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location. If replacement is not currently feasible, sample results indicate that flushing this tap for 3 minutes following periods of stagnation is likely to reduce lead concentrations and lead exposure.

Outlet: Bubbler fountain (CF026)

Location: Classroom 14, west wall

Results: P1=36 parts per billion, P2=30 parts per billion

F1=17 parts per billion, F2=4 parts per billion

These results suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the bubbler itself. This bubbler fixture appears to be made of chrome plated brass. This style bubbler typically has a 4-5-inch brass fitting that connects to a 3-inch brass nipple on the underside of the sink. This would explain the higher concentrations in the first two sample results. The connection underneath the sink may also have some brass components and should be checked, including the valve.



Replacement of this bubbler tap and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location and should be completed. If replacement is not currently feasible, sample results indicate that flushing this tap for 3 minutes prior to each use and for at least 4 minutes following periods of stagnation is likely to reduce lead concentrations and lead exposure. **In general, use of this fountain for drinking water should be discouraged.**

Outlet: Bubbler fountain (CF031)

Location: Proposed Pre-K Room, south wall

Results: P1=57 parts per billion, P2=3 parts per billion
F1=2 parts per billion, F2=non-detect

These results suggest the highest contribution of lead may be from the bubbler itself. This bubbler fixture appears to be made of chrome plated brass. This bubbler has a brass fitting connection to a brass nipple. The connector hose is not expected to be contributing lead.



Replacement of this bubbler tap and its connection plumbing with lead-free materials will significantly reduce lead exposure at this location and should be completed. If replacement is not currently feasible, sample results indicate that flushing this tap for 3 minutes following periods of stagnation is likely to reduce lead concentrations and lead exposure.

Outlets With Lead Levels 15 Parts per Billion or Less

While the remaining 22 outlets showed sample results to be at levels requiring no further action, several recommendations have been identified.

The fourth sample at each of these 22 outlets following approximately 3 minutes of use and flushing at a reduced flow reduced lead concentrations to 4 parts per billion or less. This indicates that flushing of all taps used for drinking, cooking, and/or food preparation for 4 minutes following periods of stagnation will further reduce lead exposure. It is recommended that a flushing operational procedure be developed for use by staff responsible for plumbing operations and maintenance.

Twelve of these outlets are comprised of similar materials as the outlets listed above and could potentially experience higher lead levels under extended periods of stagnation. These faucets/fountains include:

- Sink Side Bubbler Units in Classroom 12 (CF022), Classroom 5 (CF009), Classroom 21 (CF028), Hallway Fountain (DW002), Classroom 15 (CF018), Classroom 17 (CF020), and Classroom 1 (DW005).
- Integrated Faucet Bubbler Fountain Units in Classroom 6 (CF010), Classroom 9 (CF012), Classroom 4 (CF008), Classroom 3 (CF007), and Classroom 7 (CF011).

Replacement of these fixtures with lead-free materials is also recommended.

The remaining 10 outlets showed sample results of 15 parts per billion or less, requiring no further action or additional recommendations. These faucets/fountains include:

- Sink Faucets in Classroom 1 (CF004), Classroom 15 (CF017), Classroom 17 (CF019), Classroom 12 (CF021), Classroom 19 (CF023), Classroom 14 (CF025), Classroom 21 (CF027), and Proposed Pre-K Room (CF030).
- Kitchen Sink (cold) in the Community Room (KC003).
- Sink Side Bubbler Fountain in Classroom 11 (CF016).

Consecutive Sampling Results and Building Plumbing Recommendations

The consecutive samples taken at three sites in the building on October 31, 2015, provide additional confirmation that the highest contribution of lead appears to be from the individual faucet/fountains and not from the larger diameter supply plumbing within the school building.

Consecutive Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
LOCATION	LEAD RESULT (PARTS PER BILLION; ND = NOT-DETECTED)									
Proposed Pre-K Rm Sink Faucet (CF030)	2	1	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Classroom 11 Sink Faucet (CF015)	62	8	8	7	7	7	7	6	6	6
Classroom 21 Sink Faucet (CF027)	2	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

The continued presence of lead in samples collected at Classroom 11 (CF015) may be a result of lead particulates caught in the aerator/screen installed on the faucet outlet or may be from a source of lead further back in the plumbing system. However, the non-detect results from consecutive samples collected in Proposed Pre-K Room (CF030) and Classroom 21 (CF027) suggest any additional source of lead associated with Classroom 11 (CF015) is localized to the plumbing branch serving this faucet. The faucet aerator/screen in Classroom 11 (CF015) should be removed and inspected before completing a more in-depth plumbing analysis. Consecutive sampling results at Classroom 11 (CF015) support the water use restrictions specified for this outlet.